National Policy on Co-operatives

495. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a draft National Policy on Co-operatives;

(b) if so, the views of the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to extend financial help to Co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) It has been decided to formulate a National Policy on Cooperatives. The Draft National Policy on Cooperatives was discussed with the State Ministers of Cooperation in a Conference held on 30-6-2000 in New Delhi. The State Governments accepted the Draft National Policy in principle. However, in order to further fine-tune the draft, it was decided to constitute a Group of State Ministers headed by Minister of State (Agriculture). The Group of Ministers has held its first meeting on 17-7-2000. The policy would be finalised in view of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

(c) Financial help to the Cooperatives is being extended as per approved plans/schemes and budget allocation.

Suicide by farmers

496. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the suicidal deaths of the farmers in Mehbubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh on account of severe drought situation;

(b) if so, the details of such suicidal deaths;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was starvation deaths in Mehbubnagar district on account of unprecedented drought situation; and